



Old Virginia Times

The OVH ARC Newsletter



"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, VA 22110

Repeater -- WA4FPM -- 146.97/224.66
OVH Nodes -- 145.03/223.54
BBS -- BBSHRG

MARCH 1993 ISSUE

New Autopatch Access Code

A new Autopatch Access Code went into effect on March 1, 1993. For those of you who have paid your dues (up to February 5th), you should have received your Membership Card with the new access code. For those members who have not yet paid your dues, once your dues are current, you may obtain your Membership Card at the next meeting.

If your dues were current as of February 5th, but you have not received your Membership Card, please contact the Membership Chairman.

Secretary's Notes

Minutes of the February Meeting:

Called to Order at 8:00 p.m.

Dan (KC4EWT), Hamfest Committee Chairman, reported that the various Hamfest committees are on track and functioning well. There will be a Hamfest meeting in March -- details to be announced.

The slate of officers nominated by the Nominations Committee was presented to the Club. In the absence of other nominations, a motion was made, seconded and approved to declare the nominated Officers as elected. The new set of Officers for 1993 are as follows:

Butch (N6NSM) for President
Jim (WD4OJY) for Vice Pres.
Ron (NV3S) for Secretary
Mike (WV3H) for Treasurer

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 pm

Butch (N6NSM)
Secretary

Packet Bursts

Well, I think we've finally stabilized the node! KB4NR brought a club owned IBM PC/XT to WV3H and KI4RO. Tim upgraded the microprocessor from an 8088 to a V20 in order to be compatible with the G8BPQ node software. The computer supports two communication ports. We took out the diode matrix and cabled one TNC to each port. This has dramatically improved throughput and response time at the node.

The second thing that has occurred is that the old Midland 220 rig has been repaired thanks to the efforts of KD4KBX and K9SP. K9SP even put a pre-amp in it for us! It can really hear and be heard now since we have a 60 watt linear behind it which also has a pre-amp in it!

Probably the most interesting thing that WV3H and I have noticed since all these changes have been made is that, believe it or not, the traffic on the 220 side outpaces the 2 meter traffic by about 30%. You can check this out yourself next time you're on the node; just enter S<cr>. S is the STATUS command for the node and provides statistics that the software retains to give us an idea of what's going on. Pay particular attention to L2 statistics and you'll see what WV3H is talking about!

Speaking of accessing the node, I had a QSO with N4OGR the other night. Steve is so new to packet that he doesn't even own a TNC yet! HI! Anyway Steve was asking me some questions about how the node works and how he can make connect through it. I thought I would incorporate parts of the QSO into this column.

First of all, whether you're on 2 or 220 just enter C OVH<cr> at your keyboard. Now, once you're connected, you have a few options

available. If you know the alias or callsign of another node you simply enter C MANAS, for example, or C BBSHRG, etc. Well, you say, how do I learn the call of another node? You simply enter N<cr>. This is the NODES command. Each node periodically updates its neighboring nodes with information relating to what nodes it can hear, and how well it can hear them. This information is retained by the G8BPQ software (or whatever package the particular node is running) and from this information each node builds a list of nodes and a routing table. The list of nodes is what you see when you enter the nodes command. As a matter of fact, you can even find out how your packet will travel from OVH to another node by entering N followed by the name of the node you're interested in. For example, I might enter N VNA<cr>. I would find out that OVH can contact VNA directly or via MANAS. The preferred method would be the direct path which would have the largest number. However, if the direct path failed then the node software would automatically use the other path. This is the real beauty of a node over a digipeater; you don't need to know how to get through the network! The nodes handle all of that for you. Your packet can go from 220 to 2 to 440 to 10 and back again and you'll never know the difference; and furthermore you don't need to know!

So, this is all well and good as long as you're going from node to node, but what about keyboard QSOs with your fellow hams or perhaps leaving them mail in their personal mailbox? That takes a couple of more commands.

WV3H knows that KI4RO typically leaves his TNC on 223.54 Mhz. WV3H only has 145.03 Mhz capability, but he would like to leave KI4RO a message. WV3H enters C OVH<cr>. Once connected, he then enters MH 2<cr> to ask the node what

stations it has heard on port 2. How did he know he wanted port 2 you ask? He previously did a PORTS command and found out that OVH is comprised of two ports; Port 1 is on 145.03 mhz and Port 2 is on 223.54 Mhz. After entering MH 2 he sees that KI4RO was heard on port 2 about an hour ago. He enters C 2 KI4RO instructing the node to use port 2 and attempt a connect to KI4RO. If the attempt is successful, WV3H will be connected to KI4RO's mailbox and be able to leave him a message.

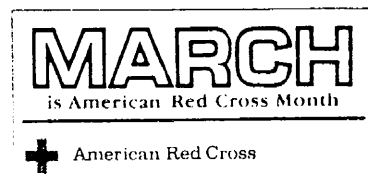
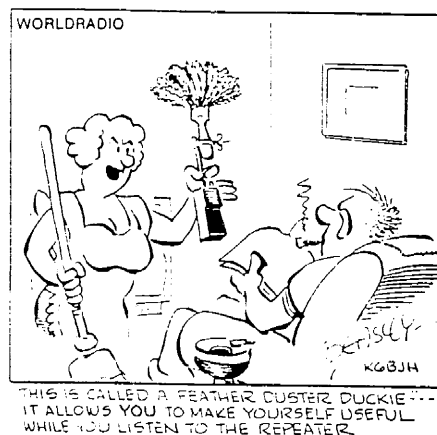
This description is fairly typical of most node software. You should be able to try these commands on any of our local nodes and start building yourself a nice little network map. Questions? Contact:

KI4RO @ N4WJN.#NOVA.VA.USA.NOAM
or
WV3H @ N4WJN.#NOVA.VA.USA.NOAM
or
Voice Mail on 146.97
or, if really desperate(!)
(703) 349-2650

By the way, what's all that gibberish after KI4RO and WV3H? Stay tuned to next month's column!

73,

John (KI4RO)



MANASSAS HAMFEST
SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1993

ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERS

"What's New"

by
Dennis (N7NXV)

HEY - this column is designed to feature new products which are currently on the market and will hopefully be interesting for all hams. I am an avid reader and loyal hobbyist, who enjoys reading all about new technology. I will not only review new products, but also provide a reference on where to write for more information.

This month I would like to talk about a 12 volt DC power supplied used for small applications. The product's name is the Innova Power Pack. The battery is a 6-AHR Gel-Cel battery which can be recharged either at home or from the cigarette lighter in your car.

The Innova Power Pack has 3 user friendly indicators that alert you to its present condition. The first visual indicator is the system ready green LED. This tells you when the battery is ready to use. The next LED is yellow and will light when recharging. The last LED is red and will light if the battery is low on voltage or when the 10 amp fuse has blown.

When you take a look at this powerful little power supply you will think of many useful applications and learn that it can be of great use, even in emergencies. With the included carrying strap and a little bit of ingenuity, you can take this and your radio or scanner virtually anywhere.

If you would like to know more about the Innova Power Pack, write to: Innova Electronics Corporation, 17291 Mount Herrmann Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92703. Their phone number is 800-544-4124.

Well, this is my first attempt at trying to tell you about something new. Incidentally, I have no vested interest in this or any other product which I may write about. I'm just an independent enthusiast. If you have anything specific you would like me to look into, just drop me a line. I would enjoy responding to any mail that anyone would like to send, pertaining to any of the articles that I have written or will write in the future.

Next month's article will be on solar power applications in the home and the different types of solar panels available.!

Is Research a Thing of the Past?

de

NS5N

I received a free copy of World Radio in the mail today and in it was an article by N7WMS entitled "'Destinated" Coined". In it, he states his displeasure with another article that had been published in an earlier time by a ham that had a great 'dislike' for people who used the term "destinated".

He continues on with great validity about several terms that did not exist and had been coined in the recent past, i.e.: byte, computer, etc. I am still lost as to the reference to "lid" and how it applies differently to hams and normal usage.

His intent is to accept the term "destinated" as a coined phrase as it appears nowhere in his dictionary. Time to get a second dictionary!

Page 702 of The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary lists "destinated" specifically. It is defined:

appointed, predetermined;
fated, destined

Many years ago, I was informed by another ham, that the use of the term "destinated" was not correct. I had my doubts about this, but rather than argue, I checked more than one dictionary before I used it again. He was correct. I operate corrected.

And, as for his research on "lid", it is defined as:

that which covers an opening

I think that is pretty much the sentiment for which it was intended. And, it is extremely polite, as it should be, coming from a ham.

73 all . . . de Jay

Propagation for Ten Meters
Mid February - Mid March

Good back-scatter conditions to the Northeast are in effect early morning about an hour after sunrise and again about an hour before sunset. Signals will be moderate to weak.

I hope you all did well during the two recent ARRL International DX Contests. It's a great way to pick up alot of new countries. Also coming up is the CQ World-Wide Phone Contesst on March 27 - 28. As for DX, the band openings are as follows:

South America:
14:00-22:00 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

South Africa:
14:00-18:00 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

South Pacific:
18:00-23:00 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Australia:
21:00-23:00 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Hawaii (weak):
18:00-21:00 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

W. Europe (weak):
13:00-15:00 8:00 am - 10:00 am

The above schedule of openings are courtesy of the Fedruary edition of QST.

Good DX-ing to you all.

73,

Craig (N4WUV)

YOUR FOR SALE ITEM

COULD GO HERE !!!

HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID
by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

On two meters lately, I have noticed a tendency of people making a concerted effort to sound like a lid. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this handy guide to radio nerd-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a LID in one easy lesson."

Step One: Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for 2 meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. I.E. "I'm going to QSY to the Phone". Can you really change frequency to the phone? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt", but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK". I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning. Also, it's best to use OK and QSL together. Redundancy is the better part of Lid-dom.

Step Two: Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi". No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.

Step Three: Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory". It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yea Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."

Step Four: Always say "XX4XXX" (insert your own call) "for I.D." As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always strongly encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more lid-points.)

Step Five: The better the copy on 2 meter FM, the more you should phonetically spell your name, especially if it is a short and/or common one. I.E. "My name is Al...Alpha Lima" or "Jack...Juliett Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible, make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob...Billibong Oregano Bumperpool."

Step Six: Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a wonderful memory test.

Step Seven: Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation" and vice-versa.

Step Eight: If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, talking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker and, if it is an emergency, will encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

Step Nine: Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

Step Ten: The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.

Step Eleven: If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least 4 out of 6 of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.

Step Twelve: If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

Step Thirteen: You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other LID trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

These thirteen easy steps should put you well on the way to Lid-hood. I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect Lid.

73, Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

(Rusty Bumpers is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.)

^Z^Z^Z^Z^Z^Z^Z^Z

Heard on the Party Line

One OM lived in a town so small
that after his tower fell in a
windstorm, his antenna was outside
city limits.

I went to the hamfest auction and
got something for nodding.

Democracy is government by
amateurs, not Amateurs. All other
forms of government are by rank
amateurs.

Any OM with horse-sense is capable
of stable thinking.

These days, if you think twice
before you "break", you'll never
get into a QSO. (ARNS, 2/93)

SWAP-N-SHOP

For Sale:

Kenwood T5940 SW/AT &
voice & spkr

Kenwood VCR EST

Accessories for FT-470

KAM Ver 5 (\$200.00)

Contact:

Ken Burton (N3LTX)

From the Editor

The Ole Virginia Times deadline for
articles to be contained in an
issue is the 25th of the previous
month.

Articles can be typed or
handwritten. They can be sent via
the mail to the address listed
below, or sent to the Club Post
Office Box or by packet. If you
have questions, please contact me
at 703-361-0008 (home) or 703-536-
1384 (work).

Bonnie Frick
246 Kent Drive
Manassas Park, VA 22111

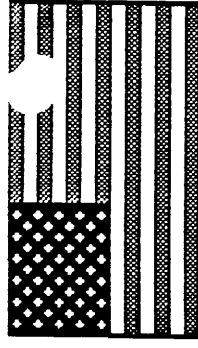
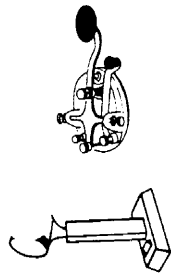
The Deadline For Articles to
Appear in the April 1993 Issue is
the 25th of March.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Ole
Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club
will be on Monday Evening,
March 15, 1993, at 8:00 p.m., in
the basement Meeting Room of the
Northern Virginia Co-Op, 10323
Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS



OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

DIRECTORS

Bob (N4RL) 703-361-7335
Tim (KB4NR) 703-494-2737
Butch (W4HJL) 703-369-2877

OFFICERS

President - Butch (N6NSM) 703-335-9352
Vice Pres - Jim (WD4OJY) 703-369-3940
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REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art (W1CRO) 703-791-4330

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Harry (W4PVA) 703-368-6050

MAIL LIST

Blaine (KB4RKL) 703-369-2877

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim (KB4NR) 703-494-2737
Jim (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932
Mary Lou (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877
Pete (KB4RME) 703-369-2436
Jeff (KB4IWD) 703-830-1150

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Butch (W4HJL) 703-369-2877
Tim (KB4NR) 703-494-2737
Bob (N4RL) 703-361-7335
Jim (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932

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Mary Lou (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877

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Bernice (KA4SCA) 703-791-3839

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Milt (N4SN) 703-369-7265
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*****LOOKING FOR REPLACEMENT*****

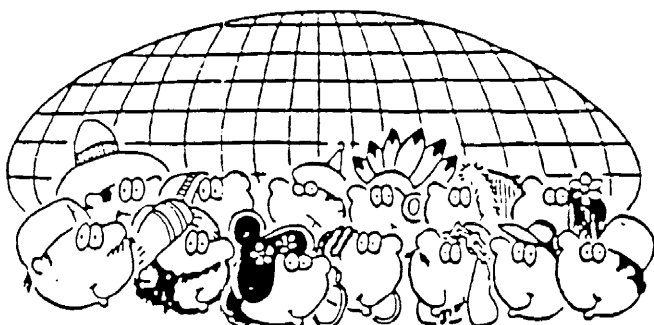


M
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N
R

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Ole Virginia Hams A.R.C., Inc.
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA 22110



WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO

